



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

# Public Information Office

David Madden, Manager • (415) 556-6177 • (415) 556-6179 fax • [dmadden@ce9.uscourts.gov](mailto:dmadden@ce9.uscourts.gov)

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: David Madden (415) 556-6177

### **Ninth Circuit to Present Awards for Achievements in Alternative Dispute Resolution**

SAN FRANCISCO – Awards recognizing individual and institutional achievements in the field of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) will be presented at next month's 2006 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Huntington Beach, Calif.

David E. Lombardi, Jr., chief circuit mediator of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, has been selected the 2006 recipient of the Robert F. Peckham Award for Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution. The award recognizes judicial employees who have significantly advanced the delivery of effective court-based ADR programs in the circuit.

Also to be honored is the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at the Pepperdine University School of Law, which has been selected to receive the Ninth Circuit ADR Education Award. The award recognizes law schools that have significantly advanced ADR scholarship and research.

Senior Circuit Judge Dorothy W. Nelson, chair of the Ninth Circuit's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, will present the awards to Mr. Lombardi and Professors Peter Robinson and Thomas Stipanowich, academic co-directors of the Straus Institute, on July 10, during the opening session of the conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The Peckham Award was established in 2001 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, governing body of the federal courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. It is named for the late Judge Peckham, a former chief district judge of the Northern District of California who helped pioneer use of legal means other than court trials to resolve disputes.

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Office of the Circuit Executive

95 Seventh St. P.O. Box 193939 San Francisco CA 94119-3939

Mr. Lombardi has headed the Ninth Circuit mediation program since 1992. He leads a staff of nine highly experienced attorneys skilled in appellate mediation, negotiation and Ninth Circuit practice and procedure. They help resolve cases emerging from the district courts, ranging from basic contract and tort actions to complex constitutional, public policy, environmental and antitrust cases. The circuit mediators facilitate negotiation and settlement in order to reduce the court's workload, particularly in complex cases, and to help the parties find solutions to their disputes.

“Under the leadership of David Lombardi, the mediation program has become a vital service to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is very deserving of this award,” Judge Nelson said of the Peckham honoree.

Mr. Lombardi is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and Yale Law School. Prior to joining the court, he practiced business law and litigation in San Francisco for 25 years. During that period, Mr. Lombardi also practiced mediation and he was Principal Referee of the California State Bar Court for 10 years. He has taught at several law schools, most recently at the University of Bombay, India, and has acted as consultant and trainer for courts in the United States and abroad.

The ADR Education Award, which was established in 2005 by the judicial council, recognizes the Pepperdine School of Law’s longstanding commitment to dispute resolution. Through its Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, the law school provides basic and advanced curricula for more than 400 degree-seeking students each year. It also is a popular provider of continuing professional education programs in negotiation, mediation and arbitration for more than 1,000 lawyers, judges and other mid-career professionals each year.

“With more than 30 dispute resolution courses integrated into its curriculum, Pepperdine clearly is a leader among the nation’s law schools in preparing current and future professionals for resolving problems,” Judge Nelson observed.

The Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference meets pursuant to Section 333 of Title 28 of the United States Code for "the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within such circuit." The circuit consists of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the district and bankruptcy courts and related court units in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions.

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